

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. Proceedings of the third annual meeting.—This Society held its third annual meeting in Philadelphia, on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of May, 1851. Seventy-six dele-
gates registered their names, representing
nineteen counties. The session was opened
at 11 A. M., at the Hall of the American
Philosophical Society, the President, Dr.
Wilmer Worthington, of West Chester, in
the chair.

Communications from Drs. Henry S. Pat-
terson, and J. Aug. Ehler, announcing their
resignation from the office of Recording Se-
cretary, were read and accepted.

Dr. Isaac Remington, of Philadelphia, and
Edward Wallace, of Berks, were appointed
to supply their places.

On motion, a committee was appointed,
consisting of Drs. Atlee, West, and Innes,

to examine and verify the credentials of de-
legates.

On motion of Dr. Emerson,

Dr. Humes, the first President of this So-
ciety, being present, was invited to take his
seat on the platform occupied by the presid-
ing officers.

An invitation from Dr. Littell, Surgeon
of the Wills' Hospital for Diseases of the
Eyes and Limbs, tendered in his own behalf,
and that of his colleagues, to delegates to
visit that institution, was read and accepted.

Dr. Condie moved that the reading of the
minutes be dispensed with, and that the
secretaries be directed to bring forward, for
the consideration of our next meeting, any
unfinished business remaining on the
minutes of last session. Carried.

On calling the roll, sixty-five delegates
answered to their names.

The President, Dr. Wilmer Worthington,

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read the annual address prepared in accordance with a resolution of last session.

On motion of Dr. C. W. Parrish, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the President for his able and eloquent address, and that a copy be requested for publication with the proceedings of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Jewell, it was

Resolved, That all associate members now present, who have heretofore acted as delegates, and "that all medical officers of the Army and Navy, and medical gentlemen from other States, at present in the city, be admitted to seats in this meeting."

On motion of Dr. C. W. Parrish, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to audit the Treasurer's account.

The chair appointed Drs. C. W. Parrish, R. E. James, and W. Mayberry, who reported a balance due to the Treasurer from the Society, of twenty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents.

On motion of Dr. Hays, it was

Resolved, That the assessments from delegates this year, be two dollars, to defray the expenses of printing the proceedings.

On motion of Dr. Atlee, it was

Resolved, That the hours of our meetings in future, be from 10 o'clock A. M. to 2 o'clock P. M., and from 5 to 7 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Dr. Kerfoot, it was

Resolved, That a committee composed of one delegate from each County Society here represented, be appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. Norris, in the absence of the Treasurer, Dr. Fox (who was prevented by sickness from attending), was appointed by the President, to receive the assessments from members.

On motion of Dr. Page, the Society adjourned to meet this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

May 28th, 5 o'clock P. M.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment. At the calling of the roll, thirty-seven members were present.

The President appointed the following committee to nominate officers, under a resolution passed at a former meeting:—viz.

Drs. Kerfoot, Lancaster County.

J. R. Walker, Chester County.

John Baskin, Mercer "

J. H. Case, Perry "

C. D. Gloninger, Lebanon "

Ellwood Harvey, Delaware "

Drs. Peter Nagle, Berks County.

R. E. James, Northampton County.

Jos. B. Ard, Mifflin "

James H. Stuart, Erie "

J. M. Gemmill, Huntingdon "

John D. Ross, Blair "

E. Chickerton, Schuylkill "

Cornelius S. Baker, Bucks "

Thos. F. Betton, Phila. "

Hiram Corson, Montgomery "

James W. Kerr, York "

The Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Hays, presented a report from Berks County Medical Society, containing a description of the medical topography of the county, illustrated by a beautifully executed coloured map, prepared from geological surveys; an account of the epidemics which have occurred during the year, with notices of the diseases which have prevailed over the several geological formations, &c. &c., which after having been read and commented upon as a model report, was, on motion of Dr. Jewell, laid on the table for further action hereafter. Reports on the same subject were also presented by Dr. Hays, from Huntingdon, Blair, Chester, Erie, Mercer, Northampton, and Delaware County Medical Societies, which after having been read, were on motion laid on the table.

The report from Delaware County Medical Society was, on motion of Dr. Hays, referred to the Censors, on account of the amendments to the constitution therein recommended.

On motion, agreed that Drs. Samuel H. Harry, and Joe. Hickman, be accredited to fill vacancies in the delegation from Chester County.

Drs. Hiram Corson, G. W. Wimley, and J. Warren Royer, appeared and took their seats as delegates from Montgomery County Medical Society.

By request, the names of Drs. C. Perkins, A. Beebe, and M. J. Johnson, were added to the Erie County delegation.

Dr. Isaac Parrish, chairman of the committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics, made the following report:—

The committees appointed to receive and arrange the reports from County Medical Societies on the Medical Topography, Epidemics, and Contagious Disorders, within their respective limits during the year 1850, respectfully report,

That they have received communications from the counties of Philadelphia, Delaware,

Montgomery, Chester, Berks, Huntingdon, and Blair, containing much interesting information upon the topics inquired after, which they submit to the Society without comment.

The committee regret that the number of counties which have responded to the call, is so limited, but considering that this is the first year, in which an attempt has been made to collect such information, they cannot but indulge the hope that, if the County Societies will continue committees from year to year, to collect similar information, that a large amount of useful matter may thereby be amassed, which will add largely to the medical literature and statistics of the State.

The committee would, therefore, earnestly recommend, that the County Medical Societies throughout the State should reappoint committees to collect information upon the prevailing diseases of the county, within the year 1851; with a particular description of the origin and progress of any epidemic or contagious disorder, which may have occurred within that time, together with any other matters of interest, affecting the morality or health of their respective districts. On behalf of the committee,

ISAAC PARRISH,
D. FRANCIS CONDIE,
WILMER WORTHINGTON.

Philadelphia, May 28th, 1851.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the report be received, and the recommendations contained therein be adopted, and the reading of the county reports be made the order of business for tomorrow.

Dr. Condie, as Chairman of the Committee on the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, made the following report:—

On behalf of the Committee on the subject of Registration, I beg leave to report, that at the last meeting of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, the accompanying bill was passed, by a large majority of both houses. In the drawing up of the bill, and the securities of its passage, the committee feel it their duty to acknowledge the valuable and zealous aid they have received from the Hon. Edward Armstrong, a representative from the City of Philadelphia. The bill, although it does not in all its details, coincide with the views of the committee, was the best they could obtain, and they believe that the amendments required to secure its efficient

workings, could be easily obtained, should it become a law. The committee regret to say that, the bill has not yet been approved by the Governor. It would be important, it is believed, for this Society to take such measures as may induce the executive to affix his name to the bill at as early a date as possible.

The committee, therefore, present the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the important advantages, in which every member of this community are deeply interested, to be derived from a Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, as they occur, caused this Society to hail with pleasure, the passage by our State Legislature, of a bill providing for such a registration throughout this commonwealth, and they feel desirous that it should receive at an early period the signature of the Governor, and thus become a law.

D. F. CONDIE, *Chairman.*

May 29th, 1851.

May 29th, 1851—10 o'clock A. M.

The Society met in the Sansom St. Hall. On calling the roll, thirty-five members answered to their names.

On motion of Dr. J. L. Atlee, the order of business for the day was suspended, for the purpose of taking up the resolution under discussion, at the adjournment yesterday.

Dr. Condie's resolution appended to the report of the Committee on Registration, now claiming the consideration of the meeting, was ably sustained by Dr. Atlee, and others, while Drs. Burrows and Hiester, spoke in opposition to some of the provisions of the bill.

Dr. C. W. Parrish offered the following as a substitute for the resolution presented by the committee, which was accepted by Dr. Condie, and after a most interesting debate, was, on motion, unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That we hail this first attempt in the State of Pennsylvania, to accomplish so important a measure, as a token for good, and although the bill passed by the Legislature, does not, in some of its details, fully meet the views and expectations of this Society; still, should it become a law, it is earnestly recommended to all upon whom the duty of carrying out its requirements devolves to comply as closely as possible with all those requirements.

On motion of Dr. Baker, it was

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolution, signed by the President and Secretary, be forwarded to the Governor.

Dr. Emerson offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania be, and they are hereby tendered to Edward Armstrong, Esq., of Philadelphia, for his efficient service in promoting the passage of the general Registration Law, by the Legislature of this State, at its late session.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolution, together with the report of the Committee of this Society on Registration, be transmitted to Mr. Armstrong, signed by the Secretary of the Society.

Dr. Hays submitted a report from the Philadelphia County Medical Society giving the following statement of the number of physicians in the city and county: Regular physicians, 397; Homœopathic, 42; Hydro-pathic, 2; Thompsonian, 50; Advertising Doctors, 32; Druggist physicians, 37; Non-descripts, 42; Total, 582. It is further stated that there are probably some omissions which would raise the total to 600; which, after being read, was, on motion of Dr. Warrington, laid on the table.

Dr. J. L. Atlee moved that the Society do now take up the order of business for the day, viz.: the consideration of the reports on Epidemics, &c., from County Societies.

Dr. Isaac Parrish, Chairman of Committee on Epidemics, &c., read interesting reports from the Philadelphia, and Delaware County Medical Societies, in relation to those subjects, when, on motion of Dr. Hays, they were laid on the table.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, by permission, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a Committee of Publication be appointed, consisting of seven, of which the Recording Secretaries, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer, for the time being, shall constitute a part.

The vacancies in said committee were then filled by the President, who appointed Drs. Isaac Parrish, D. F. Condie, and G. W. Norris.

On motion of Dr. Condie,

Resolved, That when this Society adjourns, it adjourns to meet at 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning, to enable the delegates to visit the different institutions to which they have been invited.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Committee of Publication, to arrange for publication in conjunction with the proceedings of the Society, all reports and other documents referred to them; to publish, as far as possible, all reports in full as presented, but to exercise a discretionary power as to what portion or portions of the addenda accompanying the said reports shall be published.

The report from Chester County Medical Society, on Epidemics, &c., was read by Dr. J. R. Walker, and on motion was laid on the table.

On motion the Society adjourned.

May 30th, 1851—10 o'clock, A. M.

On calling the roll, thirty-six members answered to their names.

In the absence of Dr. Wallace, one of the Recording Secretaries, Dr. C. D. Gloninger, of Lebanon County, was duly appointed his successor.

On motion of Dr. S. Jackson (late of Northumberland), the order of business was suspended for the purpose of introducing the following:—

Resolved, That this Society approve the recommendation of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, in favour of a change in the mode of representation of the National Medical Association, making such representation to consist exclusively of Delegates from State and County Medical Societies, which, after a prolonged and animated discussion, was adopted.

The report on Professional Statistics from Lebanon County Medical Society was read, and, on motion, was laid on the table.

Reports from the Huntingdon, Berks, and Blair County Medical Societies, on Epidemics, &c., were read by Dr. Parrish, and on motion laid upon the table.

The Blair County Society presented a report on the subject of a "Medical Beneficial Fund," recommending the establishment of a State Medical Beneficiary Fund to the Society, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That all reports and documents which have been received and laid upon the table during the present session, be referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That in order to raise the funds necessary to defray the expenses of publish-

ing the proceedings of the present session of the State Society, an assessment be made upon each of the County Societies represented, and that the Chairman of the Committee of Publication be empowered to draw his order upon the County Societies, for the amount assessed upon each respectively; the publication of the proceedings not to be proceeded with until the necessary funds have been placed at the disposal of the committee.

Dr. West, from the Committee on the formation of a Pathological Department, in conformity with a resolution adopted at the last session of the Society, reported that such a collection would be of great value, but that it would require for its formation and maintenance, larger funds than the Society can command. They stated, also, that the Philadelphia College of Physicians had commenced such a cabinet, which would be available for the advantage of the profession generally, and it was, therefore, deemed best, that the members of the profession throughout the State, should aid in this enterprise, by forwarding to the college such pathological specimens as they may be willing to contribute. Specimens sent, directed to the Curator of the College, Dr. JOHN NEILL, Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, would be carefully preserved and placed in the cabinet of the Philadelphia College of Physicians.

Dr. Condie moved that the report be received and the recommendation of the committee be adopted. Agreed to.

The Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Hays, presented the printed proceedings of the Northampton County Medical Society, had in reference to a clause contained in the constitution of the State Society, which by request of Dr. Innes, was read, and on motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That Sect. 3d of Art. 6th of the Constitution be amended by inserting the words "or remaining," after the words "becoming," on the eighth line, which was unanimously agreed to.

On motion of Dr. R. K. Smith, it was

Resolved, That Art. 8 of the Constitution be amended by striking out all after the words "County Societies," on third line, and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "in proportion to the number of delegates such societies may be entitled to." Adopted unanimously.

On motion of Dr. Hiester, it was

Resolved, That the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, present their thanks to the American Philosophical Society for the use of their Hall during the present session, and to the Academy of Fine Arts, for their kind invitation to visit their exhibition.

On motion of Dr. R. K. Smith, it was

Resolved, That the members of this Society tender their thanks to the gentlemen connected with Wills' Hospital, and to the Academy of Natural Sciences, for their kind invitation to visit these institutions.

On motion of Dr. Isaac Parrish, it was

Resolved, That the attention of the County Medical Society be directed to the importance of obtaining Geological Surveys of their respective counties, as the basis of a correct system of Medical Topography.

On motion of Dr. Gemmill, it was

Resolved, That the next annual meeting of the Society be held in Philadelphia.

On motion of Dr. R. K. Smith, it was

Resolved, That the last Wednesday in May, 1852, at 11 o'clock A.M., be the time fixed for the next annual meeting.

Dr. Gemmill, on behalf of the Committee appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, presented the following report, which after several corrections was adopted and the nominations confirmed:—

President.—Dr. Charles Innes, Northampton County.

Vice-Presidents.—Drs. Jos. B. Ard, Mifflin Co.; John Baskin, Mercer Co.; Geo. W. Norris, Philadelphia Co.; John P. Hiester, Berks do.

Recording Secretaries.—Drs. Isaac Remington, Philadelphia Co.; Cyrus D. Gloninger, Lebanon do.

Corresponding Secretary.—Dr. Isaac Hays, Philadelphia Co.

Treasurer.—Dr. George Fox, Philadelphia Co.

Censors, First and Second Districts.—Drs. Geo. B. Wood, Philadelphia Co.; Geo. B. Kerfoot, Lancaster do.; Isaac Thomas, Chester do.; Jesse Young, Delaware do.; Jno. W. Gloninger, Lebanon do.

Third and Fourth Districts.—Drs. Jno. D. Ross, Blair Co.; J. H. Case, Perry do.; W. McIlvaine, York do.; Jos. Henderson, Mifflin do.; G. V. Mitchell, do. do.

Fifth and Sixth Districts.—Drs. J. P. Gazzam, Alleghany Co.; John Baskin, Mercer do.; C. Perkins, Erie do.; W. Addison, Alleghany do.; G. D. Bruce, do. do.

Delegates to the American Medical Convention for 1852.—Drs. Isaac R. Walker, Chester Co.; Traill Green, Northampton do.; G. W. Norris, Philadelphia do.; Ellwood Harvey, Delaware do.; F. S. Burrowes, Lancaster do.; Jno. L. Fouke, Montgomery do.; Jno. P. Hester, Berks do.

On motion adjourned, to meet at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

May 30th, 1851—5 o'clock P. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Society met, and, on calling the roll, forty-four members were present.

Dr. Parrish moved, that the report of the Montgomery County Society be referred to the Committee of Publication. Agreed to.

Professor Jackson presented a report on variola and vaccination, which was read, and on motion referred to the Committee of Publication.

The investigations of the committee develop some very important facts. We extract below some parts of it:—

During the past year, no tendency to an epidemic prevalence of small pox has been manifested in this State. In the city the total deaths from small-pox were but 38, of which 11 were adults, and 27 were children. The average, 3 6-10ths per month. The greatest number of deaths per month occurred in July, being 11, of whom 4 were adults, and 7 children; in December, 7, of whom 1 was adult, and 6 children. The deaths from small-pox in 1849, were 152, being 114 more than in 1850.

In the first three months of the present year, 1851, ending April 26th, the total deaths from small-pox have been 24, 5 adults and 19 children, averaging 6 per month, or nearly double the average of the whole of 1850. Throughout the whole of the State the same exemption has prevailed. A few scattered cases have occurred in some counties; but not sufficient to attract attention or excite alarm.

In the report of last year some evidences were adduced from statistical facts which appeared to indicate that epidemic periods were to be observed in the occurrence of small-pox. Cases of the disease are almost constantly present in the cities of this country and of Europe. This is the actual state. Yet there is no epidemic spreading of the disease and diffusion of the contagious miasms, affecting persons at a distance from the foci of individual cases. Something ap-

pears to be wanting to complete the epidemic constitution. In other years, a few cases of small-pox appear in a part of a city, in a village or district of country, and immediately it assumes an epidemic character, and numerous cases are developed in the course of a limited number of weeks or months, when it again disappears.

The last epidemic visitation of small-pox in London was in the years 1844-5. Between 2000 and 3000 deaths were recorded. The monthly average of deaths was 165; the weekly, 37. Since that period, the annual mortality has been from 4 to 600. In 1849, the whole number of deaths was 528; the monthly average 44, the weekly 11. In 1850, the total deaths from small-pox were 482; monthly average 40 2-12, weekly 9 1-3. The population of London exceeds 2,000,000.

While Europe and this country have been exempted from epidemic small-pox, for the last year, or five years, it has raged with excessive virulence in Bengal, particularly in the capital, Calcutta. In 1849-50, it destroyed 6,100 persons; and during the first three months of 1850, the deaths were 3,329, in a population of 387,398.

The history of all the great universal epidemics has shown their march to be most generally from the east to the west. It is not an improbable anticipation that this epidemic disposition, or constitution, that gives, when it prevails, new force to the contagious element of variola, may reach Europe and this country in two or three years.

The best and the only safe means of guarding against the dangers and mortality attending the invasion of epidemic small-pox, is to give the greatest possible extension to the practice of vaccination. Experience has fully shown that, while it confers complete immunity to many, it imparts protection and contributes to the safety of the great mass of the community, by imposing a modification on the disease, mitigating its severity and restraining its activity.

The plan for the gratuitous vaccination of the poor, adopted in this city and its county districts, should be extended throughout the State. All the corporate towns, it is believed, possess already the authority to appoint physicians for this purpose, and to pay for their services from the funds of the corporation. The county commissioners might be authorized by the legislature, which should be memorialized to that effect, to appoint medical practitioners to vaccinate

the poor, and to defray the expense from the county treasury. It is recommended that this Society and the County Societies combine to carry out this plan.

Dr. Gregory, one of the highest authorities on the subject, communicated very recently to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, the following views:—

1st. That vaccination, performed under 15 years of age, gives as complete protection against small-pox as inoculation.

2d. After 15 years another law comes into operation. The economy acquires a susceptibility to a first attack of small pox, and is liable to a second attack at 50 or 60 years. According to this proposition, the protective power of vaccination progressively diminishes after the age of 15.

3d. That revaccination after 15 years is useless. It does not afford protection against an attack of small-pox. It may be resorted to as a placebo to satisfy the public mind, but is of no moment.

4th. That M. Cazenave, the celebrated dermatologist of Paris, and others had ascertained, by experiment, that inoculation in persons after fifteen years, who had been previously vaccinated, produced a new form of disease, characterized by papules of the skin, unaccompanied by vesicles or pustules.

5th. That this new popular disease is not contagious, is unattended with danger, and gives protection against small-pox for life.

These statements Dr. Gregory adopts, endorses them, and asserts that he knows them to be true. Professor Jackson's report states that if these views are correct, it is clear that inoculation, after 15 years of age, must be substituted for vaccination; and recommends that the State and County Societies institute investigations to test the truth of the new revelations.

On motion of Dr. Emerson, it was

Resolved, That the State Medical Society of Pennsylvania, appoint a committee to memorialize the Legislature for the passage of an act to secure the gratuitous vaccination of the poor, throughout this Commonwealth.

The President appointed Dr. Emerson, D. F. Condie, and Wilson Jewell, said Committee.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Vaccination, be instructed to communicate to the Secretary of every County Society, a copy of the memorial to the Legislature, asking their co-operation, and that of the

profession generally in furtherance of the measure.

On motion of Dr. Emerson, it was

Resolved, That a special Committee of the Med. Socy. of the State of Pennsylvania, be appointed to investigate the accuracy of the conclusions put forth by Drs. Gregory, of London, and Cazenave, of Paris, in relation to variola and vaccination, as referred to by Prof. Jackson, in his report on those subjects.

The President appointed Drs. Emerson, Prof. Jackson, Jos. Warrington, Isaac Parish, and Jno. D. Griscom, said Committee.

On motion of Dr. Condie, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered to Dr. Wilmer Worthington, our late President, for the courteous, dignified, and efficient manner in which he has presided over its deliberations.

On motion of Dr. Harvey, it was

Resolved, That the President elect be requested to deliver an address at the opening of the next annual meeting of the Society.

Dr. Innes, on entering upon his duties as President, delivered the following address:—

"In entering upon the duties of the chair, I take the opportunity to express both distrust of my ability to do justice to that position, and my sincere thanks for this mark of your partiality."

"To reach that point in our history, at which we, as a Society have now arrived, steady persevering effort was required; and in the gradual but regular increase of delegates to this body, we have encouraging evidence of its success.

"Receiving a new stimulus from this our fourth annual meeting, let it be our determination not to tire in our exertions, until each county in the commonwealth shall have its representation here; and to this end, in the language of the presiding officer of 1850, 'let the word be forward, and each to do his duty.'"

On motion of Dr. Condie, the Society adjourned to meet again in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock A. M., on the last Wednesday in May, 1852.

*Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting
of Medical Superintendents of American
Institutions for the Insane.*

The Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, convened at the Hall of the American Philosophical Society of the city of Phila-

adelphia, on the 19th day of May, 1851, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The following gentlemen were present: Dr. Isaac Ray, of Butler Hospital for the Insane, Providence, Rhode Island; Dr. N. Cutter, of Pepperill (private) Institution, Mass.; Dr. John S. Butler, of the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane, Hartford; Dr. N. D. Benedict, of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica; Dr. C. H. Nichols, of the Bloomingdale Asylum, near New York; Dr. H. A. Buttolph, of the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, Trenton; Dr. T. S. Kirkbride, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Philadelphia; Dr. Joshua H. Worthington, of the Friends Asylum for the Insane, Frankford, Pa.; Dr. William S. Haines, of the Philadelphia Lunatic Asylum, Blockley; Dr. John Curwen, of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Asylum, Harrisburg; Dr. John Fonerden, of the Maryland Hospital, Baltimore; Dr. S. Hanbury Smith, of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Columbus; Dr. J. W. Parker, of the South Carolina Asylum, Columbia; Dr. R. J. Patterson, of the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, Indianapolis; Dr. J. M. Higgins, of the Illinois Hospital for the Insane, Jacksonville; Dr. Pliny Earle, late of Bloomingdale Asylum, New York; Dr. Smith, of the Missouri Hospital for the Insane, Fulton.

In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Association was called to order by the Secretary, Dr. Kirkbride, and on motion of Dr. Fonerden,

Dr. S. W. Parker, of South Carolina, was appointed chairman *pro. tem.*

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read, on motion of Dr. Fonerden it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to select the names of individuals to fill any vacancies which may exist in the offices of the Association. Drs. Fonerden, Worthington, and Hanbury Smith, were appointed the committee.

A letter from Dr. W. M. Awl, of Ohio, was read, in which he tendered the Association his resignation of the office of President, which was accepted, and referred to the committee to nominate officers.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That the members of this Association, in receiving the resignation of Dr. Awl, as its presiding officer, cannot allow the occasion to pass without testifying

their full appreciation of his efforts as one of the original promoters of this Association, and of his varied and important services in the cause of the insane, and their regrets are increased by the knowledge that impaired health should have compelled him to cease to occupy the post of active usefulness in which he has been so long and so favourably known.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to furnish Dr. Awl with a copy of these resolutions.

The committee to propose names to supply vacancies in the offices of the Association nominated Dr. Luther V. Bell, of Massachusetts, as President, in the place of Dr. Awl, resigned, and Dr. Isaac Ray, of Rhode Island, as Vice President, in the place of Dr. Bell, nominated for President, which nominations were confirmed by the Association, and these gentlemen duly appointed.

On motion of Dr. Butler, it was

Resolved, That each member be authorized to invite such individuals as he may think proper to attend the meetings of this Association.

On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That, as heretofore, a business committee, consisting of three members, be appointed, who shall report each morning what papers will be read, and what other business is likely to come before the Association during the day.

The Secretary read a letter from the late President of the Association, announcing the subjects selected by him, on which the members are expected to report during the present meeting, in compliance with the resolution adopted last year.

Invitations from the Board of Directors and President of Girard College for Orphans, inviting the members of the Association to visit that institution, were read and accepted.

The resolution of the American Philosophical Society, tendering the use of their hall for the meetings of the Association; also one of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, offering their library for the same purpose, were read.

Lawrence Lewis, Mordecai L. Dawson, and William Biddle, took seats with the Association as Members of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane; also William Bettie and John

C. Allan, as Managers of the Friends' Asylum.

A paper prepared by Dr. Galt, of the Eastern Asylum of Virginia, on the impropriety of treating the insane and persons affected with other disorders in the same building, was read by Dr. Hanbury Smith, and after discussion, on motion of Dr. Butler, was laid on the table for future notice.

Dr. Cutter read a paper on the use of stramonium in the treatment of insanity, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

Dr. Ray read a case illustrating the great ingenuity often exhibited by the insane in accounting for their delusions.

Dr. Worthington tendered to the Association an invitation to visit and examine the Friends' Asylum for the Insane, and Dr. Kirkbride a similar one to visit the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, which invitations were accepted and referred to the business committee.

Dr. Kirkbride made a report from the business committee, which was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Parker, adjourned to meet at the Girard College at 4½ o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

The Association met at the Girard College, agreeably to adjournment, and under the guidance of the directors and officers of that magnificent monument of private charity, proceeded to visit its various parts, and to examine its internal arrangements, and then adjourned to meet at the Hall of the American Philosophical Society at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Second Day—Morning Session.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment. The minutes of yesterday's sessions were read and adopted.

Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester (private institution), Mass., took his seat as a member of the Association.

Dr. W. H. Stokes, of the Mount Hope Asylum, near Baltimore, appeared and took his seat as a member of the Association.

Dr. Charles Evans, Consulting Physician of the Friends' Asylum, also took a seat with the Association.

J. Konigmacher, as Trustee of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg, Alex'r Cummings, W. S. Hansell, and T. Robinson, Esq'res, as Guardians of

the Philadelphia Lunatic Asylum, took seats with the Association.

The Secretary, on behalf of the officers of the United States Mint, tendered an invitation to the Association to visit that institution; also a similar one from the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital; and from the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind; from the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb; and from the Philadelphia Athenæum, which were accepted and referred to the Business Committee.

Dr. Kirkbride, from the Business Committee, made a report.

Dr. Curwen read a paper containing a manual for the use of attendants in Institutions for the Insane, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

On motion of Dr. Higgins, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine the manual prepared by Dr. Curwen, and be requested to report during the present meeting of the Association.

Drs. Hanbury, Smith, Fonnerden, and Benedict, were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. Hanbury Smith, it was
Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up a Constitution and Code of By-laws for the government of the Association, and to aid in the despatch of business. Drs. Hanbury, Smith, Kirkbride, and Nichols, were appointed the committee.

A letter from Baines Sears, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, relative to the preventing of Insanity, by means of early education, was read, and referred to a committee of three, of which Dr. Ray is Chairman, with power to select his associates.

Dr. Ray read a paper entitled "Hints to Medical Witnesses in questions of Insanity," when, after discussion, on motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That the paper just read by Dr. Ray, is of so practical and valuable a character, that he be requested to publish it in the *American Journal of Insanity*, as containing the sentiments of this Association on the subject to which it refers.

Dr. Hanbury Smith, from the Committee on Publication, made a report, in which was recommended the publication of a volume of transactions, containing the history of the rise and progress of the Association, an abstract of its proceedings, and a selection from the papers read at its annual meet-

ings. On motion of Dr. Kirkbride, the subject was referred back to the same committee, to make a further report at a future session.

A communication was received from a committee of the Board of Guardians of the Philadelphia Alms House, inviting the Association to visit that institution, which was read, accepted, and referred to the Business Committee.

The paper prepared by Dr. Galt, and laid on the table yesterday, was called up for discussion, after which Dr. Patterson offered the following resolutions, viz:—

Resolved, That it is the duty of the community to provide and suitably care for all classes of the insane, and that, in order to secure their greatest good and highest welfare, it is indispensable that institutions for their exclusive care and treatment, having a resident medical superintendent, should be provided, and that it is improper, except from extreme necessity, as a temporary arrangement, to confine insane persons in county poor houses or other institutions, with those afflicted with, or treated for other diseases, or confined for misdemeanors; which, on motion of Dr. Parker, was laid on the table for future consideration.

Dr. Earle commenced reading an account of several institutions for the insane, on the continent of Europe, visited by him two years since, and suspended the reading, on a motion to adjourn to meet at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, at 2 P. M., which was agreed to.

Afternoon Session.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment.

Dr. Chandler, of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, appeared and took his seat as a member of the Association.

Under the guidance of Dr. Kirkbride, the Association proceeded to visit and examine the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and then adjourned to meet at the Hall of the American Philosophical Society, at nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Third Day—Morning Session.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and adopted.

Dr. Ranney, of Blackwell's Island Lunatic Asylum, took his seat as a member of the Association.

Dr. Earle concluded the reading of his paper, interrupted by the adjournment yesterday morning.

An invitation from Dr. Horner, to visit the University of Pennsylvania and Wistar Museum, was read, accepted, and referred to the Business Committee.

Dr. Kirkbride, from the Standing Committee on the Construction of Hospitals for the Insane, in compliance with the resolution adopted last year, read a report containing "a series of resolutions or propositions, affirming the well ascertained opinions of this body in reference to the fundamental principles which should regulate the erection and internal arrangements of American hospitals for the insane."

I. Every hospital for the insane should be in the country, not within less than two miles of a large town, and easily accessible at all seasons.

II. No hospital for the insane, however limited its capacity, should have less than fifty acres of land, devoted to gardens and pleasure grounds for its patients. At least one hundred acres should be possessed by every State hospital, or other institution for two hundred patients, to which number these propositions apply, unless otherwise mentioned.

III. Means should be provided to raise ten thousand gallons of water, daily, to reservoirs that will supply the highest parts of the building.

IV. No hospital for the insane should be built, without the plan having been first submitted to some physician or physicians, who have had charge of a similar establishment, or are practically acquainted with all the details of their arrangements, and received his or their full approbation.

V. The highest number that can with propriety be treated in one building, is two hundred and fifty, while two hundred is a preferable maximum.

VI. All such buildings should be constructed of stone or brick, have slate or metallic roofs, and, as far as possible, be made secure from accidents by fire.

VII. Every hospital having provision for two hundred or more patients, should have in it at least eight distinct wards for each sex—making sixteen classes in the entire establishment.

VIII. Each ward should have in it a parlor, a corridor, single lodgings for patients, an associated dormitory, communicating

with a chamber for two attendants; a clothes-room, a bath-room, a water-closet, a dining-room, a dumb-waiter, and a speaking-tube leading to the kitchen or other central part of the building.

X. No apartments should ever be provided for the confinement of patients, or as their lodging rooms, that are not entirely above ground.

X. No class of rooms should ever be constructed without some kind of window in each, communicating directly with the external atmosphere.

XI. No chamber for the use of a single patient should ever be less than eight by ten feet; nor should the ceiling of any story occupied by patients be less than twelve feet in height.

XII. The floors of patients' apartments should always be of wood.

XIII. The stairways should always be of iron, stone, or other indestructible material, ample in size and number, and easy of ascent, to afford convenient egress in case of accident from fire.

XIV. A large hospital should consist of a main central building with wings.

XV. The main central building should contain the offices, receiving rooms for company, and apartments entirely private, for the superintending physician and his family, in case that officer resides in the hospital building.

XVI. The wings should be so arranged, that if rooms are placed on both sides of a corridor, the corridors should be furnished at both ends with movable glazed sashes, for the free admission of both light and air.

XVII. The lighting should be by gas, on account of its convenience, cleanliness, safety, and economy.

XVIII. The apartments for washing clothing, &c., should be detached from the hospital building.

XIX. The drainage should be underground, and all the inlets to the sewers should be properly secured, to prevent offensive emanations.

XX. All hospitals should be warmed by passing an abundance of pure fresh air from the external atmosphere, over pipes or plates containing steam under low pressure, or hot water, the temperature of which at the boiler does not exceed 212 degrees F., and placed in the basement or cellar of the building to be heated.

XXI. A complete system of forced ven-

tilation, in connection with the heating, is indispensable to give purity to the air of a hospital for the insane, and no expense that is required to effect this object thoroughly, can be deemed either misplaced or injurious.

XXII. The boilers for generating steam for warming the building should be in a detached structure, connected with which may be the engine for pumping water, driving the washing apparatus, and other machinery.

XXIII. All water closets should, as far as possible, be made of indestructible materials—be simple in their arrangement, and have a strong downward ventilation connected with them.

XXIV. The floors of bath-rooms, water-closets, and basement stories, should, as far as possible, be made of materials that will not absorb moisture.

XXV. The wards for the most excited class should be constructed with rooms on but one side of a corridor, not less than ten feet wide, the external windows of which should be large, and having pleasant views from them.

XXVI. Wherever practicable, the pleasure grounds of a hospital for the insane should be surrounded by a substantial wall, so placed as not to be unpleasantly visible from the building.

Which propositions having been duly read and maturely considered, were adopted by the Association.

On motion of Dr. Hanbury Smith, it was Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to cause the propositions now adopted, in reference to the construction and arrangements of hospitals for the insane, to be published in the medical journals of this continent, as the sentiments of this Association on the subject referred to.

On motion of Dr. Smith, of Missouri, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed in reference to the best kinds of furniture for hospitals for the insane, to report, if possible, during the present meeting of the Association.

Drs. Buttolph, Benedict, and Curwen, were appointed the committee.

Dr. Fonnerden offered the following resolution, viz:—

Resolved, (1st). That when a hospital for two hundred and fifty patients has received two hundred, a new hospital ought to be

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erected, in anticipation of the time when the maximum number will be in possession of all the accommodations.

(2d). The second hospital ought then to be constructed, with a view to appropriate it to one sex of patients only, and as soon as it is ready for admission, there should be transferred to it from the first hospital, all the patients of that sex for which the new hospital has been provided.

Dr. Benedict moved a division of the question, which was agreed to. The first section relative to the erection of a second hospital, was adopted. The second section relative to appropriating the new hospital to a single sex, being under consideration, on motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That the whole subject be referred to a committee to report at the meeting next year.

Drs. Fonerden, Benedict, and Chandler, were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. Patterson, the resolution offered by him yesterday, was taken up for consideration, and after discussion, was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Worthington, adjourned to meet at Friends' Asylum for the Insane, at 3½ P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Association met at the Friends' Asylum agreeably to adjournment, and having under the guidance of Dr. Worthington, examined the different parts of that establishment, came to order for the transaction of business.

Dr. Chandler read a paper on the proper number of patients for one institution, and whether any advantages would result from a complete separation of the sexes in hospitals devoted to their treatment, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

Adjourned to meet at the Philosophical Hall, at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

Fourth Day—Morning Session.

After having visited in a body the United States Mint and the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Association met agreeably to adjournment.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and adopted.

Dr. Nichols read a paper prepared by Dr. Williams, one of the consulting physicians of Blackwell's Island Hospital, N. Y., on typhomania, which, after discussion, was laid on the table.

Dr. Kirkbride read a paper on the washing, laundry, bake-house, &c., for hospitals for the insane, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

Dr. Jarvis read a paper on the supposed increase of insanity, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

Dr. Kirkbride tendered his resignation of the office of Secretary, to take effect at the close of the present meeting, which was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Benedict, a committee was appointed to nominate a member to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Kirkbride.

Drs. Benedict, Hanbury Smith, and Worthington, were appointed the committee.

Dr. Chandler commenced the reading of an obituary notice of the late Samuel B. Woodward, M. D., the first President of this Association, and prepared at the request of last meeting.

Dr. Hanbury Smith moved that a committee of finance be appointed, which was agreed to.

Drs. Hanbury Smith, Kirkbride, and Butler, were appointed.

The Finance Committee made a report, which was accepted.

Adjourned to meet at the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane, Blockley, at 4 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

After having visited the Pennsylvania Hospital in the city of Philadelphia, the first institution provided in America for the treatment of the insane, being founded just a century ago, the Association, under the guidance of Dr. Haines, proceeded to inspect the different parts of the Philadelphia Lunatic Hospital and Almshouse, Blockley.

On motion of Dr. Fonerden, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to decide upon the place of the next meeting of the Association.

Drs. Kirkbride, Parker, and Patterson, were appointed the committee.

Dr. Hanbury Smith, from the committee relative to the manual for attendants, offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz :—

Resolved, That Dr. Curwen, when printing his manual, be requested to supply each member of the Association with an interleaved copy, and that these copies, with what remarks may be suggested during the

year, be handed to the committee before making a final report next year.

Adjourned to meet at the Philosophical Hall, at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Fifth Day—Morning Session.

The Association met agreeably to adjournment.

On motion of Dr. Nichols, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to express the thanks of this Association to the various boards of managers and officers of the different institutions visited by the Association, as well as to the various other bodies to whom we are indebted for invitations and other acts of kindness.

Drs. Nichols, Hanbury Smith, and Smith of Missouri, were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. Worthington, it was

Resolved, That the members of the Association be requested to report to the next meeting all the fatal cases of that form of disease described by Dr. Bell, in his paper read before this Association in 1849, and other cases resembling it, together with the result of their autopsies, especial reference being had to the condition of the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic viscera, as well as to that of the brain.

Dr. Kirkbride, from the committee to select a place for the next meeting, reported that they had agreed to recommend that when the Association adjourns it will adjourn to meet in the city of New York, on the third Tuesday of May, 1852, at ten o'clock, A. M., which recommendation was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Fonerden, it was

Resolved, That Dr. Ray be chairman of the committee in reference to Mr. Sears' letter, and that he nominate his associates. 2d. That the Secretary of this Association write to the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, informing him that his letter of June 22d, 1850, to Dr. Fonerden, was read at a meeting of the Association, held 19th May, 1851, and then referred to a committee to report at the annual meeting in 1852.

Dr. Chandler finished the reading of his notice of the late Dr. Woodward, interrupted by the adjournment yesterday, when, on motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That Dr. Chandler be requested to publish the memoir in the *American Journal of Insanity*.

Dr. Buttolph offered the following resolu-

tions, which were unanimously adopted, viz.:—

Resolved, That this Association fully appreciates the benevolent motives, the self-sacrificing labours, and the untiring perseverance of Miss D. L. Dix in her efforts to ameliorate the condition of the insane of our country, and that we deeply regret the failure, during the last and previous session of Congress, of her application to that body for an appropriation of a portion of the public lands for the benefit of the indigent insane of the several States.

Resolved, That we do now, as we have heretofore done, most cordially recommend the passage of this act by Congress, believing, as we do, that the measure would be alike creditable to the benevolent character of our government and people, and useful to the unfortunate recipients of the bounty.

Resolved, That Miss Dix be encouraged by our advice and sympathy to continue her application in behalf of this object, until her efforts are crowned with success, and that the Secretary be requested to furnish her with a copy of these resolutions.

The Treasurer, Dr. Kirkbride, reported: That since the last meeting he had received \$18, and had paid expenses of the Association to the amount of \$12 59, leaving in his hands a balance of \$6 73.

On motion of Dr. Fonerden, it was

Resolved, That the President of the Association be requested to open the next meeting with a public address on the progress of knowledge concerning insanity.

Dr. Nichols, in compliance with the request of the last meeting of the Association, read an obituary notice of the late Amariah Brigham, M. D., one of its Vice Presidents, when, on motion of Dr. Kirkbride, it was

Resolved, That Dr. Nichols be requested to publish the same in the *American Journal of Insanity*.

Dr. Haines read a paper descriptive of the system of steam heating connected with a forced ventilation, adopted at the hospital buildings of the Philadelphia Almshouse, which, after discussion, was laid upon the table.

On motion of Dr. Hanbury Smith, the committee on a constitution and by-laws was continued, to report at the next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Smith, of Missouri, it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report at the next meeting of the Association, on the relative value of an upward and downward ventilation in hospitals for the insane.

Drs. Bell, Smith, of Missouri, and Haines, were appointed the committee.

Dr. Ray made a statement in reference to an act passed by last legislature of the State of Rhode Island, defining the legal relations of the insane of that commonwealth.

Dr. Nichols, from the committee appointed for the purpose, reported the following resolutions, which, after consideration, were unanimously adopted, viz :

Resolved, That the members of this Association have visited and inspected the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, under the care of Dr. Kirkbride, as well as the parent institution in the city of Philadelphia, with great interest and satisfaction, recognizing in both abundant evidence of the well-directed benevolence to which they owe their origin, and feeling convinced that, if not unequalled, they are, at least, unexcelled.

Resolved, That upon a close inspection of the Friends' Asylum for the Insane, near Frankford, under the care of Drs. Evans and Worthington, the Association has much pleasure in testifying to the excellent condition in which they found that well-conducted and now venerable institution.

Resolved, That the visit of the members of the Association to the Philadelphia Hospital and Lunatic Asylum in Blockley, under the medical care of Dr. Haines, has afforded them an opportunity of avowing their conviction that this establishment occupies a prominent position among the great charities which are the glory of Philadelphia. The cleanliness and comfort of its spacious apartments, the classification, order, and freedom from restraint of its insane inmates, are commendable; and in all that relates to the supply of water, warmth, ventilation, and drainage, this institution is not only in advance of similar pauper establishments, but even of some of our State Hospitals.

Resolved, That while the Association finds so much to admire and commend in this institution, and approvingly observes

the astonishing improvements effected since its last meeting in this city, six years ago, it feels free to remind the Board of Guardians of its well-known opinions on the importance of providing labour, and spacious and constantly and readily accessible grounds for exercise for the insane, especially as the institution possesses abundant means of accomplishing such advisable improvements in the extensive grounds and beautiful gardens connected with it.

Resolved, That our thanks are especially due to the Boards of Managers and Guardians of all the institutions above-mentioned, for their personal attentions and the kindness shown to us on the occasion of the visit of inspection, to which reference has just been made, as well as other times, and for other professed privileges, of which want of time has prevented our availing ourselves.

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and are hereby tendered to the President and Directors of the Girard College for Orphans, for the liberal manner in which the Association was entertained during its visit to every part of that magnificent and admirably conducted institution.

Resolved, That the Association returns its warmest thanks to Dr. R. M. Patterson, Director, and Franklin Peale, Esq., Chief-coiner of the United States Mint, for the highly appreciated privilege afforded us of inspecting every part of this establishment, justly renowned for the elegance and perfection of its machinery and arrangements, and for the admirable manner in which it is conducted.

Resolved, That the Association gratefully acknowledges the liberality and kindness which prompted the American Philosophical Society to tender its hall for the meetings of the Association, and the use of which places us under special obligations to that body.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are also due to the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the offer of their beautiful library-room for the meetings of the Association; to the officers of the Academy of Natural Sciences, for the privilege of making a very gratifying visit to that valuable institution; to the officers of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind; of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb; of the Phila-

adelphia Athenæum, and the University of Pennsylvania, for the courteous invitations to visit those institutions, which want of time alone prevented our accepting.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to furnish the daily papers of Philadelphia with a copy of these resolutions for publication.

The committee appointed to select a Secretary, in the place of Dr. Kirkbride, resigned, nominated Dr. Buttolph, who was appointed.

On motion of Dr. Hanbury Smith, it was

Resolved, That while the Association reluctantly accepts the resignation of its Secretary, Dr. Thomas S. Kirkbride, it feels that it is due, not only to him, but to itself, to express its full appreciation of the faithful, devoted, and acceptable manner in which he has discharged the duties, often arduous and irksome, of the office, which he has filled from the first organization of the Association, and for which we return him our heartfelt thanks.

Dr. Hanbury Smith, from the Committee on Publication, asked that said committee be continued, which was agreed to.

On motion of Dr. Parker, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are cordially tendered to its Vice-President, Dr. I. Ray, for the able, impartial, and courteous manner in which he has performed the duties of presiding officer during the present meeting.

On motion of Dr. Benedict, it was

Resolved, That the President of the Association be requested (within two months of the adjournment of the present meeting) to assign to each member a subject, on which he shall make a written report at the next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Nichols, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to furnish a copy of the proceedings of the Association to the Editor of the "American Journal of Insanity," and to the Editors of the various Medical Journals in the United States and Canada, for publication in their respective journals.

After some remarks by the Vice-President, Dr. Ray, on motion of Dr. Butler,

The Association adjourned, to meet in the city of New York, on the third Tuesday in May, 1852, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

THOS. S. KIRKBRIDE,
Secretary.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Chester County Medical Society.—The number of regular practitioners in this county is eighty-five; homeopaths, two; Thompsonians, two; nondescripts, one.

College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.—Dr. ELISHA BARTLETT has been appointed Lecturer on Materia Medica, in this school, in place of the late Prof. Beck.

University of New York.—Dr. ALFRED C. POST has been appointed Prof. of Surgery, and Dr. Meredith Clymer Prof. of the Practice of Medicine in this school.

Centennial Celebration of the Pennsylvania Hospital.—The one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Hospital, was celebrated in this city, June 9th, by a public address from Dr. Geo. B. Wood, the senior physician to the Institution.

Buffalo Medical College.—Prof. B. R. PALMER, of Woodstock, Vt., has been appointed to the chair of Anatomy in this school, vacated by the resignation of Prof. Webster.

Prof. C. B. Coventry, having tendered his resignation, has been appointed "in consideration of his services in behalf of the College, and as a token of the high respect in which he is held by the Council and Medical Faculty," Emeritus Professor of Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence.

Dr. John C. Dalton, Jr., of Boston, Mass., has been appointed to the chair of Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence, vacated by the resignation of Prof. Coventry.

Medical Department of the St. Louis University.—Dr. MCPHEETERS has been transferred to the chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, in this Institution, made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Reyburn; Dr. Willis G. Edwards to the chair of Clinical Medicine and Pathological Anatomy; and Dr. Chas. W. Stevens has been elected to the chair of General and Descriptive Anatomy.

New York Medical College.—Dr. CARNOCHAN has been appointed Prof. of Surgery in this school, in place of Dr. A. L. Cox, resigned.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh regarding Practitioners of Homœopathy.— At Edinburgh, and within the College Hall there, the 9th day of May, 1851, an extraordinary meeting of the Royal College was held, pursuant to a resolution agreed to at the last quarterly meeting, and of which extraordinary meeting due notice was given. The President in the chair.

The following resolutions were moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to :—

1. That the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh did, several years ago, publicly express its opinion of homœopathy and homœopathic practitioners, by peremptorily declining to admit into its body a candidate for its fellowship who belonged to that denomination; and, consequently, that no fellow of the College can possibly be ignorant of the light in which all those who practice homœopathy are regarded by the College.

2. The College regrets that, notwithstanding this decided expression of its opinion, more than one of its fellows, after being admitted in a different character, have endangered the reputation of the College by becoming homœopathic practitioners; and the College expresses an earnest hope that these fellows, seeing they have thus virtually separated themselves from the College, will spontaneously sever their further connection with an institution which repudiates them, and from which they can derive, as merely nominal fellows, nothing else than a false position and a spurious credit.

3. The College feels the more bound thus to express its opinion, seeing that those fellows who have become homœopathists, and any other medical practitioners who follow homœopathy, must necessarily be aliens to the other fellows, and to the profession at large; inasmuch as no fellow of this College, nor any other physician can, by any possibility, without derogating from his own honour, and from the honour of the profession, meet practitioners of homœopathy in consultation, or co-operate with them in the other common duties of professional life.

4. That although the College has not thought it expedient hitherto to take any active steps for disclaiming those fellows who have become homœopathic practition-

ers subsequently to their admission to the College, nevertheless, since it has the power of dealing summarily with those who act in a manner so unbecoming the character of a physician, it reserves its right to exercise that power when it shall be so advised.

Signed in name and by authority of the College, J. Y. SIMPSON, President.

Death from Chloroform.— A death from the effects of chloroform, administered with a view to its anaesthetic action, is reported from the Stepney Union-house. The unfortunate man was a baker. The dose given of the chloroform was small; half a drachm being employed first, and, that failing to produce any action, another half drachm was used, and the fatal result occurred. The surgeon who administered it, said that he had examined the man and found nothing to prohibit its use. He attributed the death to a peculiar idiosyncrasy, rendering the man very susceptible of the action of the chloroform; that is to say, he did not know in what way to account for it. The manner in which the chloroform was administered is not mentioned.—*Ibid.*

Medical Statistics.— Dr. CASPER, the indefatigable statistician, has had the idea of drawing up tables of vital statistics, bearing upon the medical profession. These tables are of great extent, and contain very interesting details. We must confine ourselves to the following facts: The number of Prussian practitioners is about 3,452; their age varies in the following ratio: there are 1,873 from 24 to 36 years old; 737 from 37 to 46; 561 from 47 to 56; 190 from 57 to 66; 87 from 67 to 76; and 4 beyond 77. It will thus be seen that fully one-third are not 39 years old, and that hardly one-sixth reach 60.—*Lancet*, May 24th, 1851.

Prof. of Surgery.— The concours for the chair of Surgery, in the Faculty of Medicine, has terminated in the appointment of M. Nélaton. His competitors were MM. Robert, Michon, Buisson, Richet, Gosselin, Girardes, Jarjavay, Voillemier, Morel Lavalle, Chassaignac, and Lauson.

The Jacksonian Prize.— The Royal College of Surgeons has awarded this prize to Dr. C. T. DOWLING, for his Essay on Neuralgia, its various forms, pathology, and treatment.